

## More than 43,000 people went to the polls for a Louisiana election. A candidate won by 1 vote

By Sara Cline  
Associated Press

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)** — In the northwest corner of Louisiana, a candidate for parish sheriff demanded a recount Wednesday after losing by a single vote in an election where more than 43,000 people cast ballots.

The tight race shines a spotlight on Louisiana's recount process and its outdated voting machines, which do not produce an auditable paper trail that experts say is critical to ensuring election results are accurate. States' recount abilities have proven to be exceedingly important, especially following the 2020 presidential election when multiple battleground states conducted recounts and reviews to confirm President Joe Biden's victory.

"This extraordinarily narrow margin ... absolutely requires a hand recount to protect the integrity of our democratic process, and to ensure we respect the will of the people," John Nickelson, the Republican candidate who trailed by one vote in last week's election for Caddo Parish Sheriff, posted on social media Wednesday.

Henry Whitehorn, the Democrat who won the sheriff runoff, did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.


Caddo Clerk of Court Mike Spence said he has seen close races during his 46-years of experience, but none with such a sizeable number of voters. Spence said he hopes this will teach residents that every vote matters.

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John Nickelson, a candidate for Caddo Parish Sheriff, speaks during a forum held by the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, La., Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

(Jill Pickett/The Advocate via AP)



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## More than 43,000 people went to the polls for a Louisiana election. A candidate won by 1 vote

Continued from Front

When the recount takes place Monday only absentee ballots will be tallied again and checked for errors. But they only account for about 17% of the total vote in the runoff race. Absentee ballots are mailed in and are the only auditable paper trail under Louisiana's current voting system.

When it comes to the in-person votes, which are paperless, a recount would be similar to hitting a refresh button.

"(Election officials) test the machines beforehand and they test the machines afterwards, so it's not blind faith going into this. ... There are protections in place," David Becker, a former attorney in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division who works with election officials through the nonprofit Center for Election Innovation & Research said. "That said, a recount of a paperless vote is essentially the equivalent of hitting the button again. ... You're basically getting a report on the tabulation again."

Louisiana uses paperless touch screen voting machines bought in 2005. Once the most modern voting technology, today Louisiana is the only place



**Henry Whitehorn Sr., candidate for Caddo Parish Sheriff, speaks during a forum held by the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, La., Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.**

where they are still used statewide.

Election officials, including Louisiana's Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin, have reiterated that the state's elections are secure and there are checks and balances in place to ensure election integrity. Additionally, the state has received high marks for its election procedures, including from the legislative auditor in

March.

However, the machines and their lack of a paper trail, have been a frequent target of criticism.

The ability to recount ballots proved important in the 2020 election when many battleground states — including Arizona, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — conducted recounts or thorough reviews of the election results.

(Jill Pickett/The Advocate via AP)

Nearby in Georgia, election officials recertified the state's presidential election results after a recount of the roughly 5 million ballots cast was requested by Donald Trump. Georgia, which for two decades had used paperless voting machines similar to Louisiana's, purchased a new system shortly before the election. The current system, used by virtually every

in-person voter in Georgia, prints a paper ballot with a human-readable summary and a QR code, a type of barcode, that is read by a scanner to count the votes.

"Can you imagine what would have happened in Georgia if they had still had digital voting machines in 2020?" Becker asked.

While Louisiana is seen as a reliably red state and not perceived as a swing state in presidential races, election officials across the board have agreed that it is past time for new machines.

"It is important to be able to show your work and it is important, for people's confidence in the system, to know that there's a check against the system," Becker said.

Louisiana has tried to replace the current machines for the past five years. But the ongoing process was delayed after allegations that the bidding process was rigged.

Secretary of State-elect Nancy Landry, a Republican who takes office in January, said implementing a new voting system is a top priority. However, given the extensive bidding process and trainings, she said new machines will not be in place ahead of the 2024 presidential election. □



**A memorial for Jonathan Lewis Jr. is set up in an alleyway near Rancho High School in eastern Las Vegas, on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023. (AP Photo/Ty O'Neil)**

By Rio Yamat  
Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Students at a Las Vegas high school had gone home for the day when an urgent message was broadcast from the intercom: A defibrillator

was needed near one of the classrooms.

A nurse ran in the direction of the emergency. A group of teachers tried to perform CPR. It wasn't until the next day that social studies teacher Reuben D'Silva

## A Las Vegas high school grapples with how a feud over stolen items escalated into a fatal beating

learned what happened — a student who was standing up for a friend was put on life support after being brutally beaten by 10 of his peers in a nearby alley.

It was a devastating episode for Rancho High School, a predominantly minority campus in east Las Vegas. Some students walked out of class when they heard Jonathan Lewis Jr., 17, wouldn't survive head trauma and other injuries he suffered in the Nov. 1 attack, D'Silva said.

Adding to the devastation is that cellphone video of the beating was widely shared across social media.

In the following weeks, a small memorial sprung up in the trash-littered alley bordered by apartment buildings and a sober living home. Students, teachers and staff were left to grapple with how a conflict over a stolen vape pen and a pair of wireless headphones escalated.

"The trauma, quite frankly,

extends beyond the young man's family," said psychology teacher Isaac Barron, a councilman in neighboring North Las Vegas. "It's going to run deep, and there's no magic wand to solve this."

Police and prosecutors say nine of the 10 teenage students who took part in the beating have been arrested. Four were formally charged Tuesday as adults with second-degree murder while the other students await separate hearings. □



# Officials begin clearing debris while 3 remain missing in Alaska landslide that left 3 dead

**Associated Press**

**WRANGELL, Alaska (AP)** —

Searchers looking for three people who remain missing after a massive landslide that killed three others and injured a fourth have changed their strategy from holding an active search to a reactive search that will involve methodically clearing the highway, officials said Thursday.

"During active search periods we have searchers in the field meticulously looking for missing persons," Austin McDaniel, a spokesperson with the Alaska Department of Public Safety, told the Associated Press. "During reactive searches, search teams are not actively in the field but will react to new information and then actively search that area supported by the new information."

Since Monday night's slide, officials have inspected the site by air with drones, helicopters and planes while teams using detection dogs and sonar covered the ground and water, but the three people — one adult and two juveniles — remain missing, McDaniel said.

The slide churned up the earth from near the top of the mountain down to the



This photo provided by the Alaska Department of Public Safety shows the landslide that occurred the previous evening near Wrangell, Alaska, on Nov. 21, 2023.

(Alaska Department of Public Safety via AP)

ocean, tearing down a wide swath of evergreen trees and burying a highway in the island community of Wrangell, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) south of Juneau. Rescue crews found the body of a girl in an initial search Monday night and the bodies of two adults late Tuesday.

Around 54 homes are cut off from town by the landslide, and roughly 35 to 45 people have chosen to

stay in that area, interim borough manager Mason Villarma said. Boats are being used to provide supplies, including food, fuel and water, and prescription medications to those residents. Given the geography of the island — with the town at the northern point and houses along a 13-mile (20.9-kilometer) stretch of paved road — currently "the ocean is our only access to those resi-

dences," he said.

In that way, the town "can come together physically and recognize the tragedy and the loss of life ... but also the triumph of a small community that's really come together and been able to pull off some remarkable successes, even in the face of all this adversity," Villarma said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

The state transportation

department said on social media Wednesday that the process of clearing the highway would only begin once search and rescue efforts were complete. There was no immediate timeline for when that portion of the highway would reopen.

A woman who had been on the upper floor of a home was rescued Tuesday. She was in good condition and undergoing medical care. One of the three homes that was struck was unoccupied, McDaniel said Tuesday.

Because of the hazards of searching an unstable area, a geologist from the state transportation department was brought in to conduct a preliminary assessment, clearing some areas of the slide for ground searches. But authorities warned of a threat of additional landslides.

The slide — estimated to be 450 feet (137 meters) wide — occurred during rain and a windstorm. Wrangell received about 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain from early Monday until late evening, with wind gusts up to 60 mph (96 kph) at higher elevations, said Aaron Jacobs, a National Weather Service hydrologist and meteorologist in Juneau. □

## Former St. Louis alderman in fraud case also charged with lying to police

**Associated Press**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — A former St.

Louis alderman indicted in a fraud case was charged with lying to police about getting carjacked last year, authorities said.

Brandon Bosley was charged Wednesday with one misdemeanor count of making a false report to police when he said a woman tried to carjack him last year, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Months ago, he was indicted by federal officials in a fraud and bribery investigation that put three other former St. Louis aldermen in prison last December.

Charging documents say there was no evidence of an attempted carjacking

and that several parts of Bosley's story did not line up with what investigators found, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Officers spoke with Bosley and the woman on Dec. 22, according to court documents, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Bosley accused the woman of trying to rob him, while the woman told police that Bosley hit her with his car.

According to the court documents, Bosley told police he was robbed at a specific address and that he followed a car that he said fired shots at him. But investigators found that he wasn't at that address at the corresponding time, and surveillance video

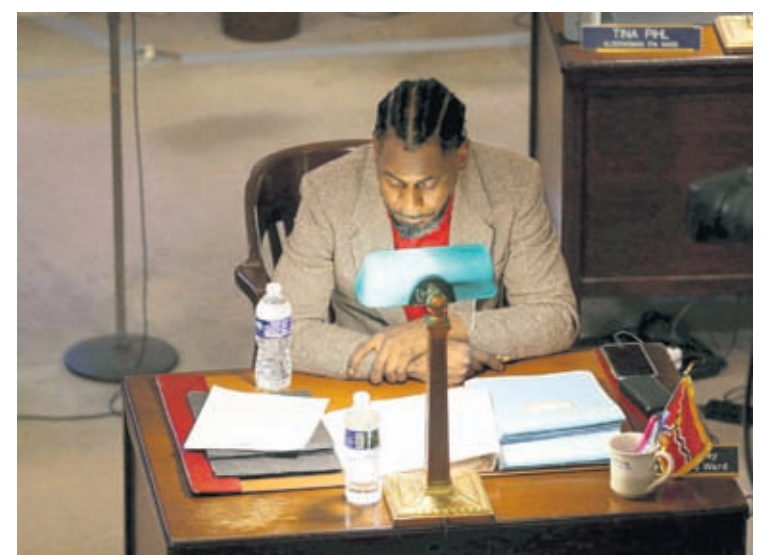
showed that he did not follow any cars.

He is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 27 for this charge, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Meanwhile, Bosley's case in federal court is still pending, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. He was indicted by federal officials in June on three counts of wire fraud related to a car insurance scheme.

Three other former St. Louis aldermen, including the longtime board president, were sentenced to prison — for about three to four years each — for accepting bribes from a businessman.

The businessman provided bribes in exchange for tax



Brandon Bosley, alderman in St. Louis' 3rd ward, listens during a Board meeting at City Hall on Feb. 10, 2023 in St. Louis, Mo.

Associated Press

breaks and a reduced rate in obtaining a city-owned property. The former aldermen are Lewis Reed, Jef-

frey Boyd and John Collins-Muhammad.

They are all men and Democrats, along with Bosley. □



# New York City Mayor Eric Adams accused of 1993 sexual assault in legal filing

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City Mayor Eric Adams has been accused of sexually assaulting a woman in 1993, according to a legal summons filed Wednesday. The three-page filing does not contain details of the alleged assault but names Adams, the transit bureau of the New York Police Department and the New York Police Department Guardians Association as defendants.

"Plaintiff was sexually assaulted by Defendant Eric Adams in New York, New York in 1993 while they both worked for the City of New York," the summons reads. The filing seeks a trial and \$5 million in relief. It was filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan. The woman's attorney did not immediately return an emailed request for comment on Thursday.

In remarks to reporters on Thursday, Adams denied sexually assaulting anyone and said he did not remember meeting the woman.



New York City Mayor Eric Adams listens at the state Capitol, Jan. 10, 2023, in Albany, N.Y.

**Associated Press**

"It absolutely did not happen. I don't recall ever meeting this person and I would never harm anyone in that magnitude. It did not happen," Adams said, according to a video posted by a reporter to X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "It did not happen, and that is not who I am and that is not who I've ever been in my professional life and, you know, it's just something that never took place."

Adams, a Democrat, was a New York City police officer who rose to the rank of captain before entering politics. He served as a state senator and Brooklyn borough president before becoming mayor. The summons was filed under the Adult Survivors Act, a special New York law that

has cleared the way for a wave of lawsuits against famous men accused of sexual misconduct. The law has led to more than 2,500 lawsuits, including cases against former President Donald Trump, hip hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs and the comedian and actor Russell Brand. The filing comes as Adams has been dogged by an FBI investigation into his 2021 campaign that prompted agents to seize his phones and raid the home of his chief campaign fundraiser. The New York Times and New York Post have reported that part of the investigation involves examining whether Adams inappropriately tried to help the government of Turkey get city approval to open a 35-story skyscraper housing diplomatic facilities in 2021, despite concerns about the tower's fire safety systems. Adams has sidestepped questions about the FBI investigation but has maintained he did nothing wrong. □



Police work at the scene of a shooting at New Hampshire Hospital Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

(Geoff Forester/The Concord Monitor via AP, File)

**Associated Press**

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)** — A man who fatally shot a security guard at a New Hampshire psychiatric hospital moments before being killed by a state police trooper was not allowed to have guns, ammunition, or any other

dangerous weapons following an arrest in 2016, according to court records. At that time, police seized an assault-style rifle and 9 mm handgun from John Madore, 33. Madore, who was arrested in Strafford on assault and reckless con-

## Man who fatally shot security guard at psychiatric hospital was banned from having guns, records say

duct charges, was later involuntarily admitted at New Hampshire Hospital in Concord, according to records. The charges were dismissed in 2017 following a competency evaluation that remains sealed. The weapons ban against Madore was part of bail orders unsealed by a judge Wednesday following a request by the New Hampshire Bulletin. On Nov. 17, Madore had a 9 mm pistol and ammunition when he shot and killed Bradley Haas, a state Department of Safety security officer who was working at the hospital's front lobby entrance, the state attorney general's office said. Madore was fatally shot by a state trooper shortly afterward. In addition to the

pistol, police found an AR-style rifle, a tactical vest and several ammunition magazines in a U-Haul truck in the hospital's parking lot that Madore had rented. Those firearms were not the same ones seized in 2016, Michael Garrity, a spokesperson for the New Hampshire attorney general's office, confirmed in a statement late Wednesday. The guns used in 2016 remain in the custody of the Strafford Police Department, he said. It remains unclear how Madore, who had most recently lived in a hotel in New Hampshire's Seacoast area, acquired the guns found Nov. 17. If he had tried to buy them, he would have been required to note his hospitalization at a mental

health institution when filling out a federal firearms application.

Madore was accused in 2016 of choking his sister and grabbing his mother around the neck and knocking her to the floor because he was upset that they had put the family dog down, according to an affidavit.

When police arrived at their Strafford home, Madore was barricaded in an upstairs bedroom and said he had firearms and that it wasn't going to end well, the police affidavit states. He eventually surrendered peacefully, police said. □

A celebration of life has been scheduled on Nov. 27 for Haas, 63, a former police chief from Franklin, New Hampshire.



# Dutch election winner Geert Wilders is an anti-Islam firebrand known as the Dutch Donald Trump

By Mike Corder  
Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — He's been called the Dutch Donald Trump. He's been threatened with death countless times by Islamic extremists, convicted of insulting Moroccans, and Britain once banned him from entering the country. Now Geert Wilders has won a massive victory in a Dutch election and is in pole position to form the next governing coalition and possibly become the Netherlands' next prime minister.

An exit poll revealing his landslide appeared to take even 60-year-old political veteran Wilders by surprise. In his first reaction, posted in a video on X, formerly Twitter, he spread his arms wide, put his face in his hands and said simply "35!" — the number of seats an exit poll forecast his Party for Freedom, or PVV, won in the 150-seat lower house of parliament. Wilders, with his fiery tongue has long been one of the Netherlands' best-known lawmakers at home and abroad. His populist policies and shock of peroxide blond hair have drawn comparisons with Trump. But, unlike Trump, he seemed destined to spend his life in political opposition.



Dutch politician Geert Wilders arrives for a press conference in London, Friday, March 5, 2010.  
(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth, File)

The only time Wilders came close to governing was when he supported the first coalition formed by Prime Minister Mark Rutte in 2010. But Wilders did not formally join the minority administration and brought it down after just 18 months in office in a dispute over austerity measures. Since then, mainstream parties have shunned him. They no longer can. "The PVV wants to, from a fantastic position with 35 seats that can totally no longer be ignored by any party, cooperate with other parties," he told cheering supporters at his

election celebration in a small bar in a working class suburb of The Hague. Whether he can piece together a stable coalition with former political foes remains to be seen. As well as alienating mainstream politicians, his fiery anti-Islam rhetoric also has made him a target for extremists and led to him living under round-the-clock protection for years. He has appeared in court as a victim of death threats, vowing never to be silenced. Voting Wednesday at The Hague City Hall, Wilders was flanked by burly se-

curity guards scanning the cavernous space for possible threats. He has moved from one safe house to another over nearly two decades. In 2009, the British government refused to let him visit the country, saying he posed a threat to "community harmony and therefore public security." Wilders had been invited to Britain by a member of Parliament's upper house, the House of Lords, to show his 15-minute film "Fitna," which criticizes the Quran as a "fascist book." The film sparked violent protests around the Muslim world

in 2008 for linking Quranic verses with footage of terrorist attacks.

To court mainstream voters this time around, Wilders toned down the anti-Islam rhetoric and sought to focus less on what he calls the "de-Islamization" of the Netherlands and more on tackling hot-button issues such as housing shortages, a cost-of-living crisis and access to good health care.

His campaign platform nonetheless calls for a referendum on the Netherlands leaving the European Union, an "asylum stop" and "no Islamic schools, Qurans and mosques," although he pledged Wednesday night not to breach Dutch laws or the country's constitution that enshrines freedom of religion and expression. Wilders is set to become the longest-serving lawmaker in the Dutch parliament later this year. He has been a member of the House of Representatives since 1998, first for the center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, where he mentored a young Rutte before quitting the party and setting up his Party for Freedom. He demonstrated a softer side Wednesday night by thanking his Hungarian-born wife Krisztina for her support. □

## EU sends border police reinforcements to Finland over fears that Russia is behind a migrant influx

By Lorne Cook and  
Jari Tanner

Associated Press

**HELSINKI (AP)** — The European Union's border agency said Thursday that it will send dozens of officers and equipment as reinforcements to Finland to help police its borders amid suspicion that Russia is behind an influx of migrants arriving to the country. Frontex said that it expects a "significant reinforcement" made up of 50 border guard officers and other staff, along

with patrol cars and additional equipment, to be put in place as soon as next week. More than 800 migrants without proper visas and documentation have arrived in Finland so far since August, with more than 700 in November alone by the end of Wednesday — compared to a few dozen in September and October. They include people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Kenya, Morocco and Somalia.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, who addressed lawmakers at Parliament on Thursday, called the situation "a serious disruption of border security" that affects the national security of Finland, whose population is 5.6 million.

"Finland cannot be influenced, Finland cannot be destabilized," Orpo said with a decisive tone. "Russia started this, and Russia also can stop it." The Kremlin denies the allegations.



Finnish Border Guards escort migrants at the international border crossing between Finland and Russia, in Salla, Finland, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.

(Jussi Nukari/Lehtikuva via AP)

On Wednesday, Finnish border guards and soldiers began erecting barriers, including concrete obstacles

topped with barbed-wire at some crossing points on the Nordic country's lengthy border with Russia. □



## Qatar says Gaza cease-fire will begin Friday morning, with aid to follow 'as soon as possible'

By Wafaa Shurafa, Najib Jobain and Jack Jeffery  
Associated Press

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)** — A four-day cease-fire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas was set to begin Friday morning, Qatar said after a daylong delay extended the agony for those hoping for some relief from the deal, which is to bring the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war. The cease-fire was originally set to begin Thursday morning, but it appeared to hit a snag the night before when Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced a one-day delay without pro-

viding a reason. On Thursday, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari announced the cease-fire will start at 7 a.m. local time Friday (5 a.m. GMT.) He said the two sides had exchanged lists of those to be released, and the first group of 13 women and children held by Hamas would be freed Friday afternoon. He did not say how many Palestinian prisoners would be freed, but officials have said three would be freed for every hostage. Increased aid for Palestinians will start to enter Gaza "as soon as possible," al-Ansari said. The hope is that the "momentum" from this deal will lead to an "end to this violence," he told reporters. Israeli airstrikes continued Thursday. In the afternoon, a strike leveled a residential building in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. At least 12 people were killed, according to officials at nearby Al-Aqsa Hospital.



**Palestinians inspect the rubble of destroyed building of Muharib family killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.**

(AP Photo/Adel Hana)

One resident, Hosni Moharib, said his wife and several children were killed and other relatives remained buried under the rubble. "It exploded on the house, striking the babies and young children. Everyone in the house, they are all dead," he said, bursting into tears. The Israeli bombardment, now in its seventh week, has killed more than 13,300 Palestinians, according

to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, which resumed its detailed count of casualties in Gaza from the war. The ministry had stopped publishing casualty counts since Nov. 11, saying it had lost the ability to do so because of the health system's collapse in the north. The new numbers were not fully broken down, but women and minors have consistently made up

around two-thirds of the dead. The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals in the north. The ministry says some 6,000 people have been reported missing, feared buried under rubble. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its death tolls. Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, without presenting evidence for its count. The truce agreement raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East. Air-raid sirens sounded across northern Israel on Thursday as Hezbollah said it fired 48 Katyusha rockets from southern Lebanon. The barrage came after an Israeli strike killed five Hezbollah fighters, including the son of the head of the group's parliamentary bloc. □

## West Africa responds to huge diphtheria outbreaks by targeting unvaccinated populations



**In this handout photo released by MSF, Dr. Aminu, left, on a routine check up on patients at the diphtheria treatment centre of the Murtala muhammad specialist hospital in Kano, Nigeria, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.**

By Chinedu Asadu  
Associated Press

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — Authorities in several West African countries are trying to manage their huge diphtheria outbreaks, including in Nigeria where a top

(Ehab Zawati, MSF via AP) health official said Thursday that millions are being vaccinated to cover wide gaps in immunity against the disease. At least 573 people out of the 11,640 diagnosed with the disease in Nigeria have

died since the current outbreak started in December 2022, though officials estimate the toll — now on the decline because of treatment efforts — could be much higher across states unable to detect many cases. In Niger 37 people had died out of the 865 cases as of October, while Guinea has reported 58 deaths out of 497 since its outbreak started in June. "As far as the history that I am aware of, this is the largest outbreak that we have had," Ifedayo Adetifa, head of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, told The Associated Press. The highly contagious bacterial infection has been reported in 20 of Nigeria's 36 states so far. A major driver of the high rate of infection in the re-

gion has been a historically wide vaccination gap, the French medical organization Doctors Without Borders, or MSF, said in a statement on Tuesday. In Nigeria, only 42% of children under 15 years old are fully protected from diphtheria, according to a government survey, while Guinea has a 47% immunization rate — both far below the 80–85% rate recommended by the World Health Organization to maintain community protection. The fate of the affected countries is worsened by the global shortages of the diphtheria vaccine as demand has increased to respond to outbreaks, the MSF said. "We're not seeing vaccination happen, not at the scale that is needed," said Dr. Dagemlidet Tesfaye

Worku, emergency medical program manager for MSF in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. "What is needed is a truly massive scale-up of vaccination, as soon as possible." The Nigerian government is ramping up vaccination for targeted populations while assisting states to boost their capacity to detect and manage cases, said Adetifa, the Nigeria CDC head. But several states continue to struggle, including Kano, which accounts for more than 75% of cases in Nigeria but has only two diphtheria treatment centers, according to Abubakar Labaran Yusuf, the state's top health official. "Once people have to travel or move significant distances to access treatment, that becomes a challenge," Adetifa said. □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors

**Mr. Michael & Mrs. Pamela Rodi from New Jersey, United States.**

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.



### Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's nice sandy beaches.
- Aruba's warm and friendly people.
- Aruba's nice warm weather.
- Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from!

- "Friends I have met over the years."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island" ☐

## Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.**

### Museum of Industry Aruba



The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum

Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

### Archaeological Museum of Aruba



The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Com-

plex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. ☐



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Marriott's Ocean Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three honoring levels are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)

**The honorees were:**

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba  
**Mr. Anthony & Mrs. Carol Ferraro**  
from Pennsylvania, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Marriott's Ocean Club bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

**Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:**

- Aruba's generous, kind, thoughtful, considerate, and warm-hearted people.



- "Aruba is my home away from home."
- Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round.
- Aruba's safety.
- "Friends we have made over the years."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island" ☐

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

**(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.**

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100  
Police Tipline: 11141

Ambulance: 911  
Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water

The water that flows

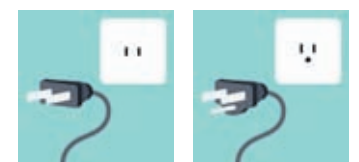
through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set



### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. ☐

by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

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# Aruba: the legend behind its name



**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.□

**Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Duff) Kock**



## Aruba's underwater wonderland



**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion

sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own



ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 38 Splinter

1 It's true groups

5 Radiator 39 Tiny dot

sound 40 Enjoys

9 Needed a Aspen

message 41 Hardy

11 Despise heroine

13 Peach

center

**DOWN**

Yesterday's answer

14 — Janeiro

1 Forgoes

7 Black

24 Tribe

15 Pointer

food

Friday

symbols

16 Tennis

2 Director's

outing

25 Lock

champ's

cry

8 Salt base

26 Pound

forte

3 Cusp of

10 Tear off

parts

18 Met

elimination

12 Doesn't

27 Table part

performer

4 Decimal

own

28 Morality

20 Place

base

17 Count

topic

21 Flower

5 Brother of

starter

30 Attire

girl, often

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19 Old

31 Goes

22 Edges

6 Sacred

autos

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23 Japanese

bird of

22 Took the

33 Opposed

drama

Egypt

bus

37 Fitting

24 Cargo

unit

25 Clothes,

in slang

27 Aspen

hangout

29 Massage

30 Despises

32 Blow up

34 Letter

after

upsilon

35 Crumpet's

cousin

36 Sausa-

lito's

county

40

41

11-24

AXYDIBAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-24

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

DC YDYP'C JWCCHU VKR GDE KQU

VKQNH RWN: DC JWCCHUHY

CVWC CVBUH RWN AKSH DP

DC. — OHCHU GQTHCC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM. — JOHN F. KENNEDY

## What does Sam Altman's firing — and quick reinstatement — mean for the future of AI?



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing a portion of the company website in this photo taken on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.

(AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

**NEW YORK (AP)** — It's been quite a week for ChatGPT-maker OpenAI — and co-founder Sam Altman.

Altman, who helped start OpenAI as a nonprofit research lab back in 2015, was removed as CEO Friday in a sudden and mostly unexplained exit that stunned the industry. And while his chief executive title was swiftly reinstated just days later, a lot of questions are still up in the air.

If you're just catching up on the OpenAI saga and what's at stake for the artificial intelligence space as a whole, you've come to the right place. Here's a rundown of what you need to know.

### WHO IS SAM ALTMAN AND HOW DID HE RISE TO FAME?

Altman is co-founder of OpenAI, the San Francisco-based company behind ChatGPT (yes, the chatbot that's seemingly everywhere today — from schools to health care ).

The explosion of ChatGPT since its arrival one year ago propelled Altman into the spotlight of the rapid commercialization of generative AI — which can produce novel imagery, passages of text and other

media. And as he became Silicon Valley's most sought-after voice on the promise and potential dangers of this technology, Altman helped transform OpenAI into a world-renowned startup.

But his position at OpenAI hit some rocky turns in a whirlwind that was the past week. Altman was fired as CEO Friday — and days later, he was back on the job with a new board of directors.

Within that time, Microsoft, which has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI and has rights to its existing technology, helped drive Altman's return, quickly hiring him as well as another OpenAI co-founder and former president, Greg Brockman, who quit in protest after the CEO's ousting. Meanwhile, hundreds of OpenAI employees threatened to resign.

Both Altman and Brockman celebrated their returns to the company in posts on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, early Wednesday.

### WHY DOES HIS REMOVAL — AND REINSTATEMENT — MATTER?

There's a lot that remains

unknown about Altman's initial ousting. Friday's announcement said he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the then-board of directors, which refused to provide more specific details. Regardless, the news sent shockwaves throughout the AI world — and, because OpenAI and Altman are such leading players in this space, may raise trust concerns around a burgeoning technology that many people still have questions about.

"The OpenAI episode shows how fragile the AI ecosystem is right now, including addressing AI's risks," said Johann Laux, an expert at the Oxford Internet Institute focusing on human oversight of artificial intelligence.

The turmoil also accentuated the differences between Altman and members of the company's previous board, who have expressed various views on the safety risks posed by AI as the technology advances.

Multiple experts add that this drama highlights how it should be governments — and not big tech companies — that should be calling the shots on AI regulation, particularly for fast-evolving technologies like generative AI.

"The events of the last few days have not only jeopardized OpenAI's attempt to introduce more ethical corporate governance in the management of their company, but it also shows that corporate governance alone, even when well-intended, can easily end up cannibalized by other corporate's dynamics and interests," said Enza Iannopollo, principal analyst at Forrester.

The lesson, Iannopollo said, is that companies can't alone deliver the level of safety and trust in AI that society needs. "Rules and guardrails, designed with companies and enforced by regulators with rigor, are crucial if we are to benefit from AI," he added. □

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# Retailers are ready to kick off Black Friday just as shoppers pull back on spending

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Retailers are kicking off the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season on Friday with a bevy of discounts and other enticements. But executives are growing concerned with a spending slowdown that could temper sales on the day after Thanksgiving as well as throughout the holidays. Shoppers, powered by a solid job market and steady wage growth, had demonstrated a resilience that confounded economists and ran counter to sour sentiments expressed in opinion polls. Such spending, while cautious, came despite higher prices in the grocery aisle and higher borrowing costs.

But consumers are now coming under more pressure from dwindling savings, increased credit card debt and still stubborn inflation. In fact, shoppers cut their buying in October, ending six straight months of gains. Shoppers have gotten some relief from easing inflation, but many goods and services like meat and rent are still far higher than they were just three years ago.

The latest quarterly results from a string of retailers from Walmart to Best Buy have reported a weakening consumer. Walmart said it noticed shoppers cutting back in October and offered a muted annual sales outlook. Best Buy, the nation's largest retailer, said shoppers are trading down to cheaper TVs. And Target said shoppers are waiting longer to buy items. For example, instead of buying sweatshirts or denim back in August or September, they held out until the weather turned cold.

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects shoppers will spend more this year than last year, but their pace will slow given all the economic uncertainty.

The group has forecast that U.S. holiday sales will



A sign announces Black Friday specials on luggage sets inside a Macy's department store on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Denver. Retailers are kicking off the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season on Friday with a bevy of discounts and other enticements.

rise 3% to 4% for November through December, compared with a 5.4% growth of a year ago. The pace is consistent with the average annual holiday increase of 3.6% from 2010 to pre-pandemic 2019. Americans ramped up spending during the pandemic, with more money in their pockets from federal relief checks and nowhere to go during lockdowns. For the holiday 2021 season, sales for the two-month period surged 12.7%.

Many retailers had already ordered fewer goods for this holiday season and have pushed holiday sales earlier in October than last year to help shoppers spread out their spending. An early shopping push ap-

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski) pears to be a trend that only got more pronounced during the pandemic when clogs in the supply network in 2021 made people buy early for fear of not getting what they wanted.

But retailers said that many shoppers will be focusing more on deals and will likely wait until the last minute. Best Buy said it's pushing more items at opening price points, while Kohl's has simplified its deals, promoting items under a certain price point like \$25 at its stores.

Online discounts should be better than a year ago, particularly for toys, electronics and clothing, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online spending. It predicts toys

will be discounted on average by 35%, compared with 22% a year ago, while electronics should see 30% cuts, compared with last year's 27%. In clothing, shoppers will see an average discount of 25%, compared with 19% last year, Adobe said.

Analysts consider the five-day Black Friday weekend — which includes the Monday after the holiday known as Cyber Monday — a key barometer of shoppers' willingness to spend. And Black Friday is expected to be once again the busiest shopping day of the year, according to Sensormatic Solutions, a firm that tracks store traffic. On average, the top 10 busiest shopping days in the U.S. are expected to once again account for roughly 40% of all holiday retail traffic, Sensormatic said.

Stores have been increasingly pushing Black Friday-type deals all month, helping to perk up business. □



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## Susan Sarandon, Melissa Barrera dropped from Hollywood companies after comments on Israel-Hamas war

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Oscar-winning actor Susan Sarandon and “Scream” star Melissa Barrera were each dropped by Hollywood companies after making comments on the Israel-Hamas war that some deemed antisemitic.

Spyglass Media Group, the production company behind the upcoming “Scream VII,” acknowledged Barrera’s exit from the horror franchise. The Mexican-born actress, who starred in “In the Heights” and the two recent “Scream” installments, had posted statements on Instagram Stories calling the war “genocide and ethnic cleansing.”

“Gaza,” she wrote, “is currently being treated like a concentration camp.”

Spyglass said in a statement that its position “is unequivocally clear: We have zero tolerance for antisemitism or the incitement of hate in any form, including false references to genocide, ethnic cleansing, Holocaust distortion or any-



**Melissa Barrera attends the world premiere of “Scream VI” in New York on March 6, 2023, left, and Susan Sarandon attends a special screening of “Maybe I Do” in New York on Jan. 17, 2023. Sarandon and Barrera were each dropped by Hollywood companies after making comments on the Israel-Hamas war that some deemed antisemitic. (Photos by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)**

thing that flagrantly crosses the line into hate speech.” Late Wednesday, Barrera posted a statement on Instagram Stories about her

firing. “First and foremost I condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia. I condemn hate and prejudice of any

kind against any group of people,” she wrote.

“I believe a group of people are NOT their leadership, and that no govern-

ing body should be above criticism,” she added. “I pray day and night for no more deaths, for no more violence, and for peaceful co-existence. I will continue to speak out for those that need it most and continue to advocate for peace and safety, for human rights and freedom.”

Earlier Wednesday, Deadline reported that Jenna Ortega, who played Barrera’s sister in the two previous “Scream” films, has exited the seventh installment. Ortega earlier departed the franchise because of her “Wednesday” schedule, the trade reported. A spokesperson for Ortega didn’t immediately respond to queries.

A spokesman for the United Talent Agency said Sarandon, the five-time Oscar nominee, is no longer represented by the agency. Sarandon’s exit from UTA followed comments she’s made about Israel, most recently in an appearance Nov. 17 at a pro-Palestinian rally in New York. □

## King Charles III honors K-pop girl group Blackpink during South Korean president’s state visit

**By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS undefined**

**LONDON (AP)** — King Charles III honored the K-pop band Blackpink on Wednesday for their work in raising awareness about climate change, as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged closer cooperation between their two countries on technology and defense.

On the second day of Yoon’s three-day state visit to London, Charles made Blackpink members Jennie Kim, Jisoo Kim and Lalisa Manoban honorary Members of the Order of the British Empire.

Bandmate Roseanne (Rosé) Park also received an MBE, though hers came without the “honorary”

qualifier because she has dual citizenship in New Zealand, one of the 14 countries where the U.K.

monarch is head of state. The honors were presented during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in

recognition of Blackpink’s role in promoting the work of the COP26 summit on climate change two years ago in Glasgow, Scotland. The awards are part of Britain’s honors system, which recognizes outstanding service to the nation and the wider world.

Charles had lauded the K-pop girl group on Tuesday during a state banquet in honor of Yoon and first lady Kim Keon Hee “for their role in bringing the message of environmental sustainability to a global audience.”

“I can only admire how they can prioritize these vital issues, as well as being global superstars,” Charles said at the banquet.

The Korean president is being treated to royal and diplomatic pomp on the

visit, which the U.K. government hopes will help cement an “Indo-Pacific tilt” in its foreign and trade policy.

Yoon met Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the British leader’s 10 Downing St. residence for talks focused on trade, technology and defense. To coincide with the visit, U.K. and Korean officials launched talks on an “upgraded” free trade agreement to replace their current deal, which largely replicates the arrangements the U.K. had before it left the European Union.

The leaders also signed an agreement dubbed the “Downing Street Accord” pledging closer cooperation on defense and technology, including artificial intelligence. □



**South Korean girl band Blackpink ahead of the State Banquet, for the state visit to the UK by President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee, at Buckingham Palace, London, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023. (Yui Mok/Pool Photo via AP)**



## New Steelers offensive coordinator Eddie Faulkner is focusing on the present

By **WILL GRAVES** AP Sports Writer

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — This isn't the way Eddie Faulkner wanted to get the biggest job of his professional life.

Faulkner and Matt Canada are friends. Their wives are friends. Their families are friends. It's a bond that goes back well over a decade, a bond that hardly ended when the Pittsburgh Steelers fired Canada as their offensive coordinator on Tuesday and replaced him with Faulkner, the energetic 46-year-old running backs coach who is well aware of how the promotion could alter the trajectory of his career.

Not that he wants to talk about it much. Yes, Faulkner is thankful and excited for the opportunity. No, he's not thrilled it had to come at Canada's expense, particularly when the blame for Pittsburgh's offensive struggles goes far beyond someone who means so much to him.

"We feel like we let (Canada) down," Faulkner said Thursday.

Maybe, but head coach Mike Tomlin had seen enough to feel a rare midseason move was required for a franchise that's among the most stable in professional sports.

Tomlin selected Faulkner as the coordinator on an interim basis, with quarterbacks



**FILE - Pittsburgh Steelers running back coach Eddie Faulkner watches on the sideline during NFL football practice, Saturday, May 11, 2019, in Pittsburgh. Faulkner was promoted to interim offensive coordinator on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023 following the firing of Matt Canada (AP Photo/Keith Srakocic, File)**

coach Mike Sullivan handling the play-calling duties on Sunday when Pittsburgh (6-4) visits Cincinnati (5-5). The move makes Faulkner one of a handful of Black men currently in the position in the NFL, a job considered a primary stepping stone to becoming a head coach. "I'd be lying if I said I didn't think it was a blessing," Faulkner said. "I totally understand it. You know what I'm saying? Like, I'm at the point in my career where I totally understand the opportunity that's

there. But at the same time, it's not clouding what the task at hand is." Namely, trying to get Pittsburgh's 28th-ranked offense to show signs of growth. The Steelers have remained in the crowded AFC playoff race despite a unit that struggles to generate points or yards with any regularity. Pittsburgh has survived on the strength of its defense and the ability to find a way to pull out close games in the final moments. It's not a formula that's sus-

tainable long term, and the tipping point came after a 13-10 loss to Cleveland last Sunday in which quarterback Kenny Pickett threw for just 106 yards. By Tuesday morning, Canada's two-plus year tenure was over and the detail-oriented Faulkner found himself in charge of restoring some of the potency and swagger to an offense that has lacked it far too often. The inventive Faulkner has spent five years working with Pittsburgh's running backs, where he's devel-

oped a reputation for a "sure, why not?" approach to his job.

He'll scour social media for drills he thinks might work, the former college running back at Wisconsin with a brief stint in training camp with the Steelers in 2001 taking great glee in challenging the group of 20-somethings at his disposal.

"He's maybe one of the most influential coaches I've ever had in my life," said second-year Steelers running back Jaylen Warren. "The way he goes about his job. The energy he brings. It can rub off on us."

Pittsburgh's offense could use a jolt. Faulkner plans to be on the sideline during games so he can communicate with position groups and collaborate with Sullivan in between series.

One of his biggest tasks will be finding a way to help Pickett evolve. The second-year starter has just six touchdown passes on the season and only two since Oct. 1. Getting the ball downfield has been an issue, and Pickett has looked tentative and unsure in the pocket of late.

Faulkner understands his relationship with Pickett will shift over the next two months, but he also has no plans to change everything and start over. □

## McLaren signs IndyCar racer Pato O'Ward as a reserve driver for the 2024 F1 season

**WOKING, England (AP)** — Formula One team McLaren signed its IndyCar racer Pato O'Ward on Thursday as a reserve driver for next season.

The 24-year-old Pato will jump behind the wheel for the first practice session of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Friday, and will then take part in post-season testing at the same track, McLaren said in a statement.

O'Ward will combine his reserve role on McLaren's F1 team next year with driving for Arrow McLaren in the IndyCar series.

After placing fourth in this year's IndyCar championship, with seven podium finishes, he collected enough points to qualify for a Super Licence that paved the way for a reserve role with McLaren and potential future in F1.

"Pumped to take on this new role within the McLaren Racing family," O'Ward said. "I've always said it's never a bad day when you get to jump into an F1 car, so I look forward to joining the reserve driver pool for next year." □



**FILE - Pato O'Ward prepares before the start of an IndyCar auto race at World Wide Technology Raceway, on Aug. 27, 2023, in Madison, Ill. Formula One team McLaren signed its IndyCar racer Pato O'Ward on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, as a reserve driver for next season.**

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)





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## French military to contribute 15,000 soldiers to massive security operation for Paris Olympics

**PARIS (AP)** — France's military is planning to contribute 15,000 soldiers to the massive security operation for next year's Paris Olympics, an army general involved in the preparations said Thursday. The bulk of the military force — nearly 10,000 troops — will be deployed in the Paris region, where most Olympic events will be concentrated, said Gen. Christophe Abad, the military governor of Paris who serves as military adviser to the French capital's police chief. Military forces will also be employed for the games as far as 15,000 kilometers (nearly 10,000 miles) away in Tahiti, where navy vessels will safeguard the venue there for Olympic surfing. In Paris, a temporary military camp for 5,000 troops will be set up in a park in the south-east of the capital, putting the force close to the city's Olympic sites, Abad said. The security operation for the July 26 to Aug. 11



**FILE - The Olympic rings in front of the Paris City Hall, in Paris, Sunday, April 30, 2023. France's military is planning to contribute 15,000 soldiers to the massive security operation for next year's Paris Olympics, it was reported on Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.**

(AP Photo/Aurelien Morissard, File)

Olympics, and Paralympic Games that follow, is unprecedented in scale for France. Tens of thousands of police officers and private security staff are also being

deployed. New legislation has also allowed the temporary use next year of cameras combined with artificial intelligence software to scan for security problems.

Critics fear the Olympic security will erode privacy and civil liberties permanently. In the skies, the French military is also planning to deploy Reaper surveillance drones

and AWACS airspace-monitoring planes, fighter jets, airborne refueling planes and helicopters that can carry sharpshooters and equipment to disable drones. The military force of 15,000 nationwide will incorporate 7,000 troops already deployed on anti-terrorism patrols at transport hubs and other busy or sensitive sites, including places of worship, Abad said. The military could also be called upon to contribute additional troops if Paris Games organizers fall short in their efforts to recruit more private security staff. The military's Olympic preparations include training exercises to hone its readiness for potential crises during the games. Abad said that during war games this month, he and other officials tested their capabilities for dealing with a terrorist threat, a plane crash, an attack using drones, a severe heat wave and a chemical spill. □

## Sinner leads Italy past the Netherlands in Davis Cup. Italians reach semis for 2nd straight season

**MALAGA, Spain (AP)** — Jan-nik Sinner kept Italy alive by winning his singles match and then successfully teamed up with Lorenzo Sonego in the doubles against the Netherlands to send his nation into the semifinals of the Davis Cup on Thursday. Italy rallied to a 2-1 win to reach the last-four for the second straight season. Without Sinner, the Italians were eliminated by eventual champion Canada last year. The Netherlands got the first point when Botić van

de Zandschulp saved two match points to beat Matteo Arnaldi 6-7 (6) 6-3 7-6 (7) in a thrilling opening singles that lasted nearly 3 hours. The fourth-ranked Sinner beat Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (3) 6-1 to make it 1-1 and then, along with Sonego, defeated Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof 6-3, 6-4 in the decisive doubles. The 22-year-old Sinner was coming off a runner-up finish to Novak Djokovic in the ATP Finals last week. The Italians won their lone Davis Cup title in 1976, and

will be seeking a first final appearance since 1998. Italy has reached seven semifinals this century. The Netherlands, in the quarterfinals for the second consecutive year, was trying to match its best-ever performance from a semifinal appearance in 2001. Italy will face the winner of the quarterfinal match between Novak Djokovic's Serbia and Great Britain later Thursday. Australia and Finland will play in the other semifinal match on Friday. □



**Italy's Janik Sinner, top, and Italy's Lorenzo Sonego celebrate after winning against Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor and Netherlands' Wesley Koolhof during a Davis Cup quarter-final tennis match between Italy and Netherlands in Malaga, Spain, Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.**

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)